

Rifle Ranger District  
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United States Department of Agriculture



## **West Elk Stock Driveway #2152**

**Length:** 4.6 miles one-way (7.4 km one-way)

**Beginning Elevation:** 7,000 ft. (2,134 m)

**USGS Quad Maps:** Rifle Falls

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Ending Elevation:** 9,000 ft. (2,743 m)

**Use:** Low

**ACCESS:** From New Castle travel north on the Buford-New Castle Road (County Road 245), starting from the northwest edge of town. Drive approximately 9.2 miles to the lower trailhead on the right side of the road. The trailhead will be approximately 1 mile north of the Forest boundary. Hike or ride 0.4 miles up the trail to the intersection with Trail #2152.

To access the upper trailhead continue another 8 miles to Forest Road 819, which is across the road from the West Elk Trailhead parking area and bathrooms. Turn right onto Forest Road 819 and travel 0.7 miles to the trailhead, which is located at the south edge of a large clearing across from a long fence line.

**TRAIL OVERVIEW:** The West Elk Stock Driveway parallels the Cherry Creek Trail as both routes descend from Forest Road 819 to the bottom of the Buford-New Castle Road. The northern half of the Stock Driveway winds through stands of spruce and aspen with a gentle grade and smooth, wide tread. This is an excellent location to view autumn aspen colors. The southern half of the trail travels through oak brush and pinyon juniper while offering good views of the surrounding foothills. This southern section is rougher, steeper, and harder to navigate in certain places; riders should traverse this area with caution, especially when grazing animals are present on the forest. The West Elk Stock Driveway ends at an intersection with the Cherry Creek trail. From here, travel another 0.4 miles south to the Buford-New Castle Road.

At 0.6 miles south of FR-819, the Stock Driveway intersects with a short connector trail that leads down into the Cherry Creek drainage. Another intersection is located at 2.0 miles; from here, follow the Cherry Creek Connector (#2256.1A) 1.4 miles east to Cherry Creek.

**TRAIL OPEN TO THE FOLLOWING USES:** Bicycling, hiking and horseback riding

### **ETHICS/REGULATIONS:**

- Please be respectful of other trail users
- Please refrain from littering: Pack It In & Pack It Out!
- No camping within 100 feet of any surface waters
- This area is part of an active grazing allotment during the summer; please ride carefully and do not harass the herd.

*This information is intended for use as guidance only. We strongly suggest purchasing a topographic trail map prior to beginning any trip on the National Forest.*

*Remember to check current conditions and "Know Before You Go"*